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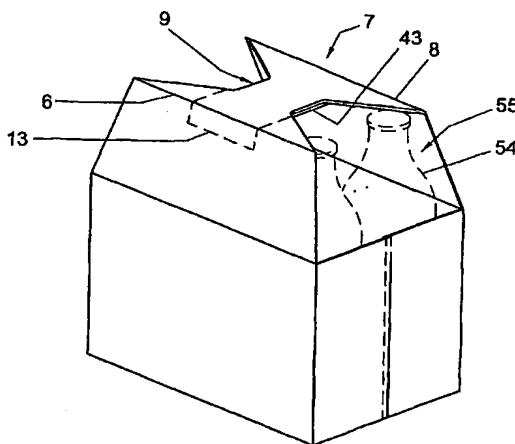
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(54) Title: MULTIPACK AND BLANK AND APPARATUS FOR THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A package for containers such as bottles or cans, folded from sheet material, comprising a bottom panel (2), a first and second side panel (4, 5) connected thereto via diametrically opposed first fold lines (3) and a first and second upper flap (7, 9) connected to the respective side panels via a second and third fold line (6, 8), respectively, wherein the first upper flap is located on the second upper flap and at least two openings (32) are provided in the first upper flap through which fingers can be inserted for lifting said package and the second upper flap extends at least between said openings, while, at the location of the second and third fold line over at least one part of the said second and third fold line at least two layers of sheet material are provided, on and/or on both sides of said second and third fold line such that an upper longitudinal edge (56) of at least one of the containers abuts, during use, against the innermost of said two layers of sheet material.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/NL2004/000219

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B65D71/36 B65D71/00 B65B11/10 B65B21/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B65D B65B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 148 654 A (KISTERS KARL) 22 September 1992 (1992-09-22) figure 3	26
X,P	WO 03/051717 A1 (BOIX MAQUINARIA, S.A; BOIX JAEN. JOSE) 26 June 2003 (2003-06-26) figures 1-7 & US 2004/031236 A1 (BOIX JAEN JOSE) 19 February 2004 (2004-02-19)	26
A	US 4 498 581 A (DUTCHER) 12 February 1985 (1985-02-12) the whole document	1, 19
A	WO 01/66434 A (RIVERWOOD) 13 September 2001 (2001-09-13) the whole document	1, 19

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 January 2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 996 883 A (BATES) 7 December 1999 (1999-12-07) column 2, line 46 - column 4, line 26; figures 1-6 -----	1,19
A	US 4 216 861 A (OLIFF) 12 August 1980 (1980-08-12) cited in the application the whole document -----	1,19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NL2004/000219

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/NL2004 /000219

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-25

Package for containers with a reinforcement adjacent to the fold lines which connect the upper flaps to the side walls; blank for such a container

2. claims: 26,27

Apparatus for setting up packages where the blanks are not rotated during setting up.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PC1/NL2004/000219

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